

## Christmas at Grace Chapel: Avoid the Sin of Materialism

James 5:1-6

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**SUMMARY:** So often we trust the things we own or can see more than the God who is unseen. We trust in our material belonging and our monetary gain for a sense of security. James tells us to not forget the one who was abundantly generous with us and gave his life for us, Jesus Christ. The generosity of God toward us should propel our generosity toward others.

Who is James addressing in these passages and **what exactly** is being condemned?

The love of money will rot your soul. – vs. 1-2

- Money is taught about in scripture more than any other topic. Why? Is it as much of a problem in society today as it was when James was writing? More so? What is the proper attitude toward money and wealth? Look up the following passages, what do they say about wealth and money? 1 Timothy 6:6-11, 1 Timothy 6:17-19, Matthew 6:19-21, and Proverbs 30:7-9

View all your possessions through the perspective that Christ is coming again. – v. 3

- If you revealed your checkbook (old school), bank account, Venmo payments, or Zelle payments...where do your priorities lie? Are they more “earthly minded” or “kingdom minded”? What would it look like for you to make the shift towards becoming more “kingdom minded” than you are?

God sees and knows all so treat others fairly and selflessly. – v. 4

- What would (does) “crazy generosity” look like for you? How can you put it into practice this week or this month? (Share with somebody to hold you accountable.)

Live generously and do not mistake what is a luxury as necessity. – v. 5

- How do these 2 quotes strike you? Do you currently live either one out? What changes need to be made to live one or even both out?
  - “Live simply so that others may simply live.”
  - “Gain all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can.”

Do not forget Jesus who gave you grace without reservation. – v. 6

- What does it mean to “not forget Jesus” when it comes to your wealth and finances?
- How can you adjust your use of wealth and attitude towards your wealth so that your actions show that your love is for the Giver rather than His gift?

### **Apply:**

1. Remember: Wealth (materialism) is not a sin. The preoccupation of wealth (materialism) is. Check your closets, your shoes, your \_\_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_\_ Do you see weakness anywhere?
2. What is the hardest to give up: time, talent(s), or treasure (wealth)?
3. Where/how can you be “crazy generous” with your time, talent(s), or treasure (wealth)?
4. Institute a 24 hour “wait and pray” rule for anything over \$100 (not including groceries) to help determine if it’s a want or a need.

**Next week:** Read James 5:7-11

